

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 /097 W  
-----052093 251420Z /43

R 251347Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0907  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PDEV, XA, GW

SUBJ: FOREIGN OFFICE REORGANIZATION AFFECTING  
AFRICA AND ME DEPARTMENTS

SUMMARY: THE FRG FONOFF IS PLANNING A  
MAJOR RESTRUCTURING OF THE THIRD WORLD  
SECTION OF ITS POLITICAL DEPARTMENT. FIRST  
STEP WILL BE CREATION OF SEPARATE DIVISIONS  
FOR AFRICA AND FOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS, EACH  
HEADED BY COMMISSIONER WITH RANK OF  
AMBASSADOR. HOPED FOR EFFECT WILL BE  
STRENGTHENING OF AFRICA AND ME SECTIONS  
WHICH WERE FORMERLY GROUPED TOGETHER IN  
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ONE DIVISION. END SUMMARY.

1. AS THE FONOFF IS PRESENTLY ORGANIZED, DEPARTMENT  
THREE, HEADED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LOTHAR LAHN, IS  
RESPONSIBLE FOR THIRD WORLD POLITICAL AFFAIRS. DEPART-  
MENT THREE HAS TWO DIVISIONS; THE FIRST, HEADED BY  
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BARTHOLD WITTE, IS CHARGED

WITH LATIN AMERICA, ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (INCLUDING THE SUBCONTINENT), AND RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD MOVEMENT. THE SECOND, UNDER DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WALTER JESSER, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, THE NEAR EAST, AND THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE.

2. INCREASED GERMAN INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE THIRD WORLD, MAGNIFIED BY THE EMERGENCE OF AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST AS THE LEADING CRISIS AREAS OF THE WORLD, HAVE MADE THAT ORGANIZATION OBSOLETE. ONE MAN (JESSER) CAN NO LONGER BE EXPECTED TO HANDLE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR BOTH CRISIS AREAS. THE PERSONNEL STRENGTH IN THE AFRICA/ME DIVISION, WHICH HAS BEEN UNCHANGED SINCE THE 1960'S, IS ALSO NO LONGER CONSIDERED SUFFICIENT TO COPE WITH THE INCREASED WORKLOAD. FURTHERMORE, THE INFLUX OF HIGH RANKING AFRICAN AND ARAB VISITORS TO BONN HAS PUT A STRAIN ON THE STATE SECRETARY AND MINISTERIAL LEVEL, SINCE THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE KNOWLEDGEABLE YET OF SUFFICIENT RANK TO RECEIVE THEM.

3. TO DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM, FONMIN GENSCHER HAS PROPOSED THE CREATION OF FOUR SEPARATE DIVISIONS WITHIN DEPARTMENT THREE: LATIN AMERICA, ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, MIDDLE AND NEAR EAST, AND AFRICA. EACH DIVISION WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BE HEADED BY A COMMISSIONER WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR WHO WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, AND VISITS FOR HIS AREA. THE NEW COMMISSIONERS, IT IS HOPED, WOULD RELIEVE THE PRESSURE ON THE TOP LEVELS OF THE FONOFF AND, PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY, PROMOTE GREATER EFFICIENCY AND RESPONSIVENESS IN EACH OF THE NEW DIVISIONS.

4. BECAUSE OF CERTAIN TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, THIS REORGANIZATION PLAN WILL NOT GO INTO EFFECT ALL AT ONCE. (THE MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR AND FINANCE, WHICH MUST APPROVE BUREAUCRATIC RESTRUCTURING OF THIS TYPE, HAVE NOT YET GIVEN THEIR APPROVAL TO THE CHANGES AS REQUESTED BY GENSCHER). AS A FIRST STEP, ONLY THE SECOND DIVISION WILL BE AFFECTED: AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE/NEAR EAST WILL EACH BE MADE A SEPARATE DIVISION. HELMUT MUELLER, NOW DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN AFFAIRS WILL BE NAMED COMMISSIONER FOR AFRICA, WHILE JESSER WILL RETAIN HIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR MIDDLE/NEAR EAST AFFAIRS AND THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE, ALSO WITH THE TITLE OF COMMISSIONER. MUELLER AND JESSER, HOWEVER, WILL NOT TAKE UP THEIR

NEW RESPONSIBILITIES UNTIL FALL.

5. THE ME/NE DIVISION WILL NOT BE AFFECTED GREATLY  
AS A RESULT OF THE RESTRUCTURING. JESSER, WHO WAS

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-05 /097 W  
-----052058 251420Z /44

R 251347Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0908  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
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PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN ME AFFAIRS EVEN IN HIS OLD  
POSITION, WILL REMAIN IN CHARGE. THE EFFECTS ARE,  
HOWEVER, EXPECTED TO BE FELT MORE ON THE AFRICAN SIDE.  
MUELLER HAS FOR SEVERAL YEARS BEEN CONSIDERED THE  
"HOUSE EXPERT" ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS. MANY OF GENSCHER'S  
OPINIONS VIS-A-VIS AFRICA CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO MUELLER.  
MUELLER HAS ALSO REPRESENTED THE FRG AMONG THE EC  
AFRICAN EXPERTS AND, RECENTLY, IN VARIOUS FORA OF THE  
CONTACT GROUP IN NEW YORK AND SOUTH AFRICA. HE WILL  
NOW HAVE THE PROTOCOL WEIGHT COMMENSURATE WITH HIS  
INFLUENCE.

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6. COMMENT: THE PERSONALITIES--MUELLER AND JESSER--REMAIN THE SAME, DOING BASICALLY WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN DOING. THEREFORE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS ORGANIZATIONAL SHIFT IMPLIES OR BODES ANY CHANGE FOR THE FRG'S POLICY TOWARD EITHER AREA. IN FACT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MUELLER'S PROMOTION, WE FORESEE FEW OF THE HOPED-FOR BENEFITS OF THE SHIFT BEING REALIZED. THE PROBLEMS OF WORK ARE LIKELY TO CONTINUE, SINCE EVEN WITH THE ADDITION OF ONE OR TWO MORE BODIES, THE TOTAL COMPLEMENT OF EACH NEW DIVISION WILL REMAIN UNDER A DOZEN OFFICERS. FURTHERMORE, WE DO NOT EXPECT VISITING DIGNITARIES TO ABANDON THEIR REQUESTS TO SEE THE CHANCELLOR OR FOREIGN MINISTER BECAUSE THEY NOW HAVE A NEW "COMMISSIONER" TO TALK WITH. NEVERTHELESS, THE EXISTENCE OF A "COMMISSIONER" MAY SIMPLIFY SOME OF THE PROTOCOL PROBLEMS OF HAVING A SUBSTANTIVE "EXPERT" TAKE PART IN HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, PDEV, XA, GE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009